

THE MORNING NEWS

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Rehabilitation of Rancho area begins with restoration of Koningstraat 29



Big house and Cas di Torto



Albert Burgers

ORANJESTAD -- Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba, a non-profit organization dedicated to the renovation and management of Aruba's landmark buildings, announced their first major project for Oranjestad's historical area known as Rancho.

This western end of Aruba's capital was original an independent settlement, one of the island's oldest, and an important center of commerce, as it bordered the harbor. Fishermen set out to sea daily from its shorefront and

their catch was laid out and sold next to the salt flats, which were used to preserve the fish.

The area is a treasure trove of island culture and landmark buildings, explained Anne Witsenburg-de Jong, Director of the Monumentenfonds. The foundation works closely with the government's Monumentenbureau, which has handled the reclaiming process on a number of structures. In this case, they are also working in conjunction with the Stichting Rancho, headed by Clifford Rosa, a very unique organization dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of this historical area. Ms. Witsenburg-de Jong expressed a hope they would see other such organized community efforts aimed toward preserving their cultural heritage. Since her taking over the administration of the Monumentenfonds two years ago, the agency played a much stronger role in the restoration of landmark structures. She expressed the desire to see the number of projects done to date, become the annual quantity.



Anne Witsenburg de Jong

On Tuesday morning, island media was welcomed to the Monumentenfonds offices on Avenida Milio Croes to announce their latest project. Discussion regarding a particularly unique structure located at Koningstraat 29, in Rancho, were begun quite some time ago. This will be breaking new ground for the foundation, as presently, the restored projects with which they are involved and administered, are rented by governmental agencies, but this will remain a private property.

In attempting to save the historic value of Koningstraat 29 the Monumentenfonds did some detective work.

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Israel minister angers US with Kerry peace push diatribe

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israel's defence minister accused US Secretary of State John Kerry of an "incomprehensible obsession" with Middle East peace, drawing a furious response from the Jewish state's chief ally Tuesday.

The White House described Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon's reported comments as "offensive," in a mark of the degree of outrage in Washington at the latest public spat between the two allies, which follows a major row over Iran policy.

Yaalon later apologised to US Secretary of State John Kerry.

In a statement, Yaalon said he "had no intention to cause any offence to the secretary, and he apologises if the secretary was offended by words attributed to the minister."

Israel's top-selling newspaper Yediot Aharonot quoted Yaalon as expressing hope that Kerry, who has visited the region 10 times since taking office in February 2013, would end his peace push and focus his energies

elsewhere.

"The American plan for security arrangements that was shown to us isn't worth the paper it was written on," Yaalon was quoted as saying in private conversations with Israeli officials, accusing Kerry of being naive and implying he is a nuisance.

US President Barack Obama's spokesman Jay Carney said Yaalon's remarks "if accurate, are offensive and inappropriate, especially in the light of everything Secretary Kerry is doing to support Israel's security needs."

"Secretary Kerry and his team have been working non-stop in their efforts to promote a secure peace for Israel because of the deep concern the United States has and the deep commitment the United States has for and to Israel's future and the Israeli people," Carney said.

"To question Secretary Kerry's motives and distort his proposals is not something we would expect from the defence minister of a close ally."

Twelve dead, 10 missing in Brazil flooding

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Twelve people were killed and 10 were missing after flash flooding triggered by heavy rain in the southern Brazilian town of Itaoca, officials said Tuesday in an updated toll.

Sao Paulo state's civil defense department earlier put the death toll at 10 and added that 332 people -- or about 10 percent of the town's population -- were left homeless by overflowing waters from the Palmital River.

Itaoca, located 340 kilo-

meters (210 miles) southwest of Sao Paulo, was still without power and drinking water, and 100 homes were affected, officials said.

Some 50 homes were also damaged in the nearby town of Apiai, they added.

Sao Paulo Governor Geraldo Alckmin warned of an "extremely serious" situation as he toured the area Monday.

And the misery is not over yet. Forecasters are predicting more rain in the area over the next few days.



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Rehabilitation of Rancho area begins...

Cont. from pg 1



By doing this they managed to locate the absentee Dutch owner, Peter Burgers. A vanguard cooperation was born of their efforts, where Mr. Burgers will actually finance the restoration of the building, with the Monumentenfonds acting as project manager. Additionally, Mr. Burger's son, Albert, who is a second year architectural student at TU Delft in Holland, did an internship at the Monumentenfonds, focusing on the restoration of the property. He is primarily responsible for the plan to be put into effect.

The landmark property has a small secondary structure adjacent to the "big house," comprised of a very unique construction referred to as "Cas di Torto." This displays the rudimentary limestone caulk with which early historical structures were finished and whitewashed. Despite being more than 150 years old, the basic structure is still very sound, though it did suffer fire damage from squatters this past year.

Albert Burger reports his time on Aruba was a revelation, "refreshing my passion for architecture." He feels there is a great deal to learn from the old style of construction prevalent during colonial times, which de-

played the materials available and were mindful of the wind and sun in placing structures to best advantage. "The materials used were naturally sustainable," he observes. "Even after 150 years, they are still quite sound. They were more porous, so the buildings could 'breathe' and be much cooler, unlike what we find with concrete structures that are most common today. I feel that finding a way to combine those past methods with modern materials would be very beneficial and a smart way to plan any new buildings for Aruba."

The work on the Cas di Torto at Koningstraat will begin once a contracting company is found that can work within those parameters, to restore the historic structure to its original glory. The plan is for the main building to eventually house international students attending one of Aruba's schools, such as the University of Aruba, which is in close proximity. "The building will be larger and far more attractive than where I am situated in Delft," observed Albert Burgers, "I would love to be staying in such quarters."

In December, a group of Sustainable Architecture students from University of Rotterdam conducted a two-week study of the Rancho area, as part of the department's curriculum. Their findings focused on what would be feasible financially for the Monumentenfonds, singling out the many alley ways that are lined with historical structures as areas of focus. They devised an "his-

torical walk" that would be ideal for visitors, particularly off the cruise ships, best showcasing the landmark buildings, with Koningstraat 29 being the final destination of the path they devised.

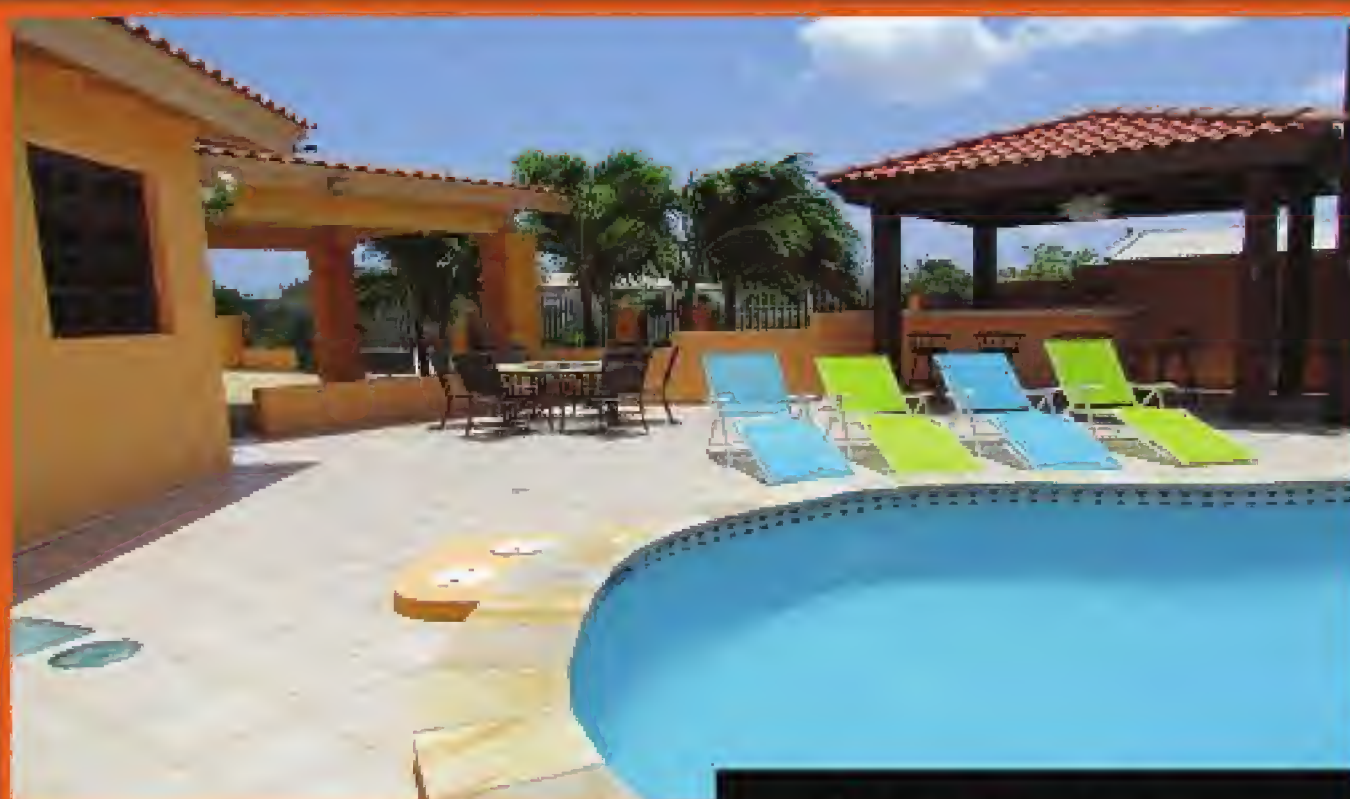
Ms. Witzenburg de-Jong

expressed the hope that other property owners with landmark structures will be inspired by this project, as well communities becoming more conscientious about preserving their heritage. It demonstrates that appreciation on

the part of the property owners and cooperation with the foundation is entirely feasible, for the benefit of the barrio and Aruba.

By Rosalie Klein

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Store Policies may not contradict the law



ORANJESTAD -- The Government department dealing with consumer rights, namely, Dienst Huur- en Consumentenzaken, has received various complaints from consumers regarding stores refusing to make refunds. With respect to these complaints this Department has decided to submit the following information:

Our economy is based on a free market and depends, among others, on the demand of consumers. In reality, business as well as consumer needs each other to guarantee a healthy functioning economy and the welfare of one and all.

Spending money is an important role of the consumer which helps the economy to flourish. For this reason the consumer plays a vital role in our economic system and the consumer consequently

deserves good service.

Giving the consumer good service signifies that a business will create a good relationship with its clients and vice versa. A cardinal aspect of this is that all aspects of the relationship comply with the law. For example, the management of prices, product guarantees as well as "store policy." The Department wishes to inform that NO store policies are above laws, which protects the local consumer. Quite the contrary, all store policies must comply with the law and may never contradict the law.

If in the event a certain store policy is in contradiction of our laws, that store policy will be considered invalid. An example of this is the failure to refund money to a consumer. This condition is unjust to a client, for example when a product results in being defective and the client requests a refund of their money paid. Another example of this which makes this store policy invalid, is when a consumer has bought an item under the false expectations created by the company, such as in the case of false promotions.

Other important aspects of the law to bear in mind are when the consumer purchases a product which results in being defective, the consumer can demand:

- A new product, and if the product is no longer in stock, this makes it impossible to get a new product
- In the event a part is damaged the consumer can demand a new part or to have this repaired
- Repair the product. If the cost for repair is considerably high, it may be unreasonable to demand the business to carry the cost of repairs
- If it is impossible for the company to comply with the above mentioned then the consumer can demand return of their money paid.

The Department wants to advise all business owners to take into account that there are laws protecting the consumer and that they must abide by these laws unconditionally.

This article was compiled in keeping based on the laws protecting the consumer. No rights may be claimed from this article, but for more information regarding consumer's rights, making a complaint or to register an abuse against consumer, please consult the Department: Dienst Huur- en Consumentenzaken at Wayaca 33, or call 582-9914. You may also visit their website at www.dhc.aw. Like them on Facebook or follow via Twitter or email at info@dhc.aw.

Chamber of Commerce introduces new board for 2014



Omar Tromp flanked by KVK Director Leo Maduro and Sonja S.J.G. Velthuisen

ORANJESTAD -- Chamber of Commerce Director Leo Maduro and Head of Business Info & Support, Sonja S.J.G. Velthuisen welcomed island media to the KVK headquarters on Thursday afternoon, January 9, to introduce the newly elected President of the KVK Board for 2014, Omar Tromp. Vice-President for the coming year is Lindsey Wever.

Also joining the board for the first time are two new women members, Daphne Agius Cesareo-Lejuez and Julisa Arends-Hoevertsz, along with Robert Carrasquero. Other board members who have served previously include Satish Daryanani, Francisco de Mey, Ernst Mohamed and Trey Wyatt. Retiring President Jamal Mahawat Khan has completed his tenure as a board member and is stepping down.

Leo Maduro also took this opportunity to impart statistics from 2013, with a comparison from the year past and a five-year retrospect of

businesses on Aruba. After a sharp drop following the global financial crises of 2008, there has been a steady increase over the last five years of new business registered.

He stated that generally, considering the shutdown of the Valero Refinery, Aruba's economy in the private sector is performing satisfactorily. An increase in BBO tax collected over the previous year indicates an increase in commerce. Registration of new businesses in 2013 was 1324, as compared to 1197 in 2012. Among the new business, a notable proportion were small, individual ownership type, (Eenmanszaak) at 833, compared to limited liability companies, N.V., of only 282. This is an increase over 2012, with 675 Eenmanszaak, of 23.4%. In San Nicolas, the increase in businesses openings over 2012 was 26% and in Paradera 29.4%, which is particularly positive for these areas of the island.

Continued on pg 4

Aruba is proud of Giomar's achievement Young Aruban Giomar Nunes working with ESPN/Disney Sports



Nunes posing in front of the famous "I Love Aruba" sign



With Minister of Sports Schwengle

ORANJESTAD -- Recently the Minister of Public Health, Sports and Elderly Care, Dr. Alex Schwengle received a courtesy visit from a young Aruban with a passion for sports and with a determination to in the future help Aruba in sports management however he can. Giomar Nunes just completed MBA and Masters degree in Sports Business Management at the University of Central Florida, which is considered one of the top Sports Management Universities. Immediately following his graduation Nunes got a job offer to work with the marketing team of ESPN together with Disney Sports in Orlando.

This is obviously, a great achievement considering it is not easy to get such positions.

Minister Schwengle was happy to chat with Nunes and exchange ideas. He wishes Giomar much success in his future career with ESPN/Disney Sports which is one of the top organizations among the media specialized in sports. The Minister expressed... "We are very proud

to say Aruba scores once again. And this young Aruban achieved all this on his own by working and studying hard."

The Minister said that the Aruban community must be very proud when an Aruban reaches so far internationally. The Minister was very pleased with the visit by Giomar Nunes and his future plans to help Aruba in the area of his expertise. The Minister said that he will keep Nunes' offer in mind and explore which projects would call for this youth's professional assistance and expertise in the future.

Giomar Nunes has a Bachelor's degree in Tourism from the University of Aruba after completing his studies at the Colegio Arubano. He always wanted to do something in sports, aware that there are many possibilities for development on Aruba. During that time he received an internship with IDEFRE, which today is IbiSA where he did research regarding tourism and sports.

Nunes is part of the

ESPN's team working on the marketing and development of soccer programs and tournaments. With the challenges that NFL are going thru, soccer is receiving more attention. The sport of soccer can be much bigger in the US, said Nunes.

Nunes indicated that if Aruba wants to do things more professionally and want to grow in sports, we will need the expertise. He is willing to assist and his future plans are to help develop and expand our sports on Aruba in general. He considers his career with ESPN a testrun, a great experience to be able to continue building his career.

Giomar Nunes mentioned that Aruban baseball player Xander Bogaerts is mentioned all over the USA wherever he goes.

People, he said, always ask him for Xander, he is doing a great job of promoting Aruba. Nunes said that he hopes in the future to work together with Xander to help develop sports in general on our island.

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Chamber of Commerce introduces new board...

Cont. from pg 3

Other districts ranges around 10% to 15%.

The Chamber's greatest concern is the state of Public Finances. The general economic perspective of private industry is "acceptable", but the continued operation of government at a greater cost than its tax income, combined with a continually increasing deficit, could have serious consequences for Aruba's economy.

On a final note, Mrs. Velthuisen invited all entrepreneurs to attend the upcoming KVK annual Business Plaza, which will take place at their headquarters on Irausquin Boulevard on Saturday, January 18, from 9:00 AM until 3:30 PM. This year, the lectures and workshops will focus on setting new goals and innovating in products and services.

This year, it is sponsored by SETAR N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications company. Morning presentations will be by Omar Lejuez of "I Love Aruba" company,

Leo Maduro, Mildred Schwengle of HBN Law, Stanley Brown of Multi Media International and Marielle Hoeijmakers of CEDE Aruba.

Afternoon workshops will be conducted by Dave Martinus of ActionCoach and Benno Oldenhof of Atlas. Subjects will be "Business Coaching-Grow Your Company," and "Company Structures and Tax Benefits."

Chamber of Commerce personnel will be available throughout the day for one-on-one sessions to answer individual queries regarding starting and conducting business on Aruba. All presentation and workshops are provided gratis, but seating is limited and pre-registration is required.

Those wishing to participate can register online at businessinfo@arubachamber.com, or by calling 582-1566 extensions 27/30/35 or 42.

By Rosalie Klein



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SETAR present Luis Machado and John Messina with Afl. 10.000 each



ORANJESTAD -- In connection with the 10th anniversary celebration as a N.V., SETAR recently presented the two last winners of their celebration campaign with Afl. 10.000 each.

The lucky winners Luis Machado and John Messina came to the SETAR office to claim their big prizes. SETAR's representative Mrs. Clem van Heyningen from the Marketing Department presented the winners with their prizes.

During holiday season SETAR announced that they would be giving away Afl. 50.000 total in prizes. This was won among 5 happy winners who received Afl. 10.000 each. The first three winners were announced on

December 15th during the evening of SETAR'S Mobile Bazaar. At the beginning of January, 2014 the last 2 winners were announced.

SETAR N.V. wishes to say thank you to all their clients who supported them these 10 years and showed faith in the national Telecommunication company. An important achievement for not only the company but also for its employees, clients and the community of Aruba. Without any doubt SETAR will continue offering the community promotions and attractive specials for 2014.

Photo depicts Luis Machado (L) and John Messina (R) receiving their prizes from Mrs. van Hyningen.

Minister of Finance Irausquin presents his management team



ORANJESTAD -- The government has decided that in the light of transparency every Minister ought to make public to the press their mission, goals and management plan as well as their work team.

As the person in charge of the biggest and most crucial portfolio: Finances and Governmental Organization, Minister Juan David Yrausquin decided to make known his mission. His mission, he says, is to implement a solid and sustainable system of public finances. And, says Yrausquin, we are to use our public financial resources in the most effective and efficient manner, and at the same time to realize that the government's apparatus must run efficiently.

To help realize his goals, Yrausquin has put together a team specialized in different areas. These professionals were present during the press meeting. The team consists of: Director of the Department of Finances, Derrick Werleman, Director of the Tax Department, Diana Croes, Director of Customs, Julian Lopez Ramirez, Director of the Central Accounting Office, Roland Pang, Director of the MOT, Lenaert Peek, and Director of the Department of Human Resources, Omaira Lares.

Pereira who comes from the Central Bank and Haydelin Thijsen, former executive assistant of the director of Valero.

The Minister has enacted several changes in various departments. He says, "this is the best way to function." He is of the opinion that there can't be various directors on the same level, just one director and an assistant director. Diana Croes' contract has been extended for six months, but this time as the only director of SIAD. Mario Arends is now assistant director at the Customs Department.

The Minister concluded saying that he is convinced that we must use the resources that we have in the government's apparatus and to share with other colleagues the work we have to do in the most efficient manner possible.



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White House plays down Rouhani crowing on nuclear deal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House Tuesday dismissed an aggressive claim of victory by Iran's President Hassan Rouhani over an interim nuclear deal, and attempted to face down rising domestic political pressure over the pact.

Washington said Rouhani's comment that world powers were now bowing to Tehran was a symptom of domestic politics and insisted that the deal, curbing aspects of Iran's nuclear program in return for limited sanctions relief, hinged on its words and not its rhetoric.

"It is not surprising to us and nor should it be surprising to you that the Iranians are describing the agreement in a certain way towards their domestic audience," spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

"It does not matter what they say, it matters what they do."

Rouhani's comment was sent out on his official Twitter account, and played directly into the complaints of hawkish members of the US Congress that the deal, due to come into force on January 20, gave too much up to Iran for too little in return.

"Our relationship w/ the world is based on Iranian nation's interests. In #Geneva agreement world powers surrendered to Iranian nation's will," the tweet said.

The White House is fighting a tense political battle to prevent Congress from slap-

ping a new round of sanctions on Iran which it says could cause the Islamic republic to walk away from the negotiating table, and eventually push Washington into a war to thwart Tehran's nuclear program.

So any statements by Iran have the potential to color the political debate in Washington, where the interim nuclear deal is viewed with intense suspicion by many Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

Supporters of tightened sanctions say they have at least 59 votes in the 100-seat Senate and may be heading towards the 67-vote threshold needed to override the veto that President Barack Obama has promised. There is also strong backing for new sanctions in the House of Representatives.

Some lawmakers have reacted angrily to warnings by the White House that voting for the sanctions bill could unleash consequences that could embroil the United States in a new war in the Middle East.

Senate Majority leader Harry Reid has so far declined to bring the bill to the floor, noting that 10 key Democratic committee chairs have called on him to thwart the passage of any measures that could scupper the nuclear diplomacy.

"We're going to wait and see how this plays out," he told reporters.

White House: Obama hopes to meet pope in 'near future'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama will meet Pope Francis "in the near future," the White House said Tuesday, although it did not specify a date for their much-anticipated first encounter.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the president "looks forward" to the meeting with the pontiff, of whom he has spoken with admiration.

Pope Francis was elected in March last year and had an immediate impact at the Vatican, his relaxed style and focus on poverty contrasting with the reserved conservatism of his predecessor.

His personal popularity, even among non-Catholics, has soared as Obama's once stellar approval ratings have fallen.

Last month, Obama spoke approvingly of the new pope, despite concerns in conservative US circles that the Argentinian pontiff is hostile to free-market capitalism.

"Some of you may have seen just last week, the pope himself spoke about this at eloquent length," Obama said in a speech to a progressive Washington think tank.

"How could it be, he wrote, that it's not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points?"

Francis had argued that such values spring from an unequal society in which "masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalized: without work, without possibilities, without any means of escape."



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Egypt votes on constitution as violence highlights divide

CAIRO (AFP) - Egyptians queued to vote amid tight security Tuesday in a referendum on a new constitution likely to launch a presidential bid by the army chief who overthrew Islamist president Mohamed Morsi.

Polling at most stations went smoothly, but eight people were killed in clashes outside Cairo between Morsi supporters and police and anti-Morsi groups, security officials said.

The violence highlighted the government's precarious grip on the most populous Arab nation, still reeling from Morsi's ouster and a crack-down on his supporters.

An Islamist coalition led by the former president's Muslim Brotherhood had urged protests and a boycott of the two-day vote, which ends on Wednesday.

A small bomb exploded outside a Cairo court shortly before polls opened without causing any casualties, as hundreds of thousands of soldiers and police deployed to guard polling stations.

The interior ministry had pledged to confront any attempt to disrupt voting.

Three people were killed in the town of Kerdasa, south of Cairo, and five died in central and southern Egypt when protesters clashed with police and civilian opponents.

Before the voting ended, at least 140 people, including some Brotherhood members, had been arrested for disrupting the polling in some areas, security officials said.

Defence minister Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the general who overthrew Morsi, visited a polling station at a Cairo school to inspect security

preparations on Tuesday.

"Work hard. We need the referendum to be completely secured," he told soldiers guarding the school.

The government hopes a large turnout in favour of the constitution will bolster its disputed authority, while Sisi will monitor it for an "indicator" of his popularity, an official close to the general said.

Interim president Adly Mansour called for a big turnout.

"The people must prove to dark terrorism that they fear nothing," he said after casting his vote.

"The voting is not only for the constitution, but also for the roadmap, so the country can have an elected president and a parliament."

Mansour's government has pledged the referendum will be followed by parliamentary and presidential elections.



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Mexican army clashes with vigilantes, one dead

CUATRO CAMINOS (AFP) - Deadly armed clashes erupted on Tuesday when Mexican soldiers attempted to disarm civilian vigilantes who had refused to abandon an armed struggle against a drug cartel.

The Michoacan state prosecutor's office confirmed that one person was shot dead but militias said four people died in confrontations in a western region known as Tierra Caliente, or Hot Country.

The clashes after the federal government decided to take control of security in Michoacan State, telling civilians to lay down their arms after a nearly year-long battle with the Knights Templar cartel.

Unrest in the agricultural state has become the biggest security challenge for President Enrique Peña Nieto's 13-month-old administration, undermining his pledge to reduce drug violence.

Vigilante spokesman Estanislao Beltran told AFP a military convoy arrived in the community of Cuatro Caminos on Tuesday to seize weapons, one day after the militia routed gangsters from the area.

Residents blocked the road in protest to demand that the soldiers return the guns to the militia, he said.

"During this struggle a soldier fired and killed two vigilantes on the spot," Beltran said.

Two other people, including an 11-year-old girl, were also hit and died on their way to a hospital, he said, adding that he witnessed the shooting.

Civilians first took up arms in February 2013 to oust the Templars from the region, saying local police were either colluding with gangs or unable to deal with the violence and extortion rackets.

Since then, officials have alleged that at least some civilian militias were backed by a cartel while analysts say the government was all too happy letting the vigilantes police the state.

The military deployment was ordered Monday after the vigilantes seized more towns in recent days and surrounded the Templar stronghold of Apatzingan, raising fears of urban battles in the main city of Tierra Caliente.

"We can't combat illegality with illegality," Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam told Televisa television.

The purpose of the deployment, he said, "is simply to restore legal order in a place that did not have it."

The attorney general's office sent 11 helicopters as well as 70 agents and investigators to the state.

Vigilantes leaders said they would disobey the government's order to disarm as long as authorities fail to arrest Templar capos.

Nearly 10 tonnes of cocaine seized at Dutch ports last year

THE HAGUE - Officials seized more than 10 tonnes of illegal drugs hidden in shipments made to Dutch ports last year, the public prosecution department said on Tuesday. In total, officials made 113 separate seizures. Cocaine from South America accounted for 9,800 kilos of the total haul. In 2012, officials made 69 drugs seizures including 3,600 kilos was cocaine and 6,700 kilos of marijuana. The two biggest 2013 finds were hidden under consignments of bananas.

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At talks, Colombian rebels urge regulated drug farms

HAVANA (AFP) - Colombia's FARC rebels on Tuesday called for the regulated cultivation and sale of illegal crops like coca leaf, opium poppies and marijuana as a fresh round of peace talks with government negotiators got under way.

Rebel negotiator Pablo Catatumbo unveiled the proposal before the start of a negotiating session dealing with drug trafficking, the industry that has long fuelled Colombia's brutal civil war.

He said the proposal would "regulate the production and marketing of coca leaf, poppies and marijuana, in recognition of their nutritional, medicinal, therapeutic and cultural qualities... as well as their artisanal and industrial possibilities."

He called for the de-milita-

rization of areas where small farmers would be allowed to grow the crops under UN supervision, and an end to the crop eradication programs that have been a central feature of US-financed counter-drug programs in Colombia.

Catatumbo said the latest proposal was based on a pilot project advanced during a previous unsuccessful set of peace talks in 2000 by FARC founder Manuel Marulanda.

Under the FARC's proposal, the program would be funded by the government with the savings that come from eliminating the military presence in those areas, he said.

Funding should also come from international sources, including the countries that are the biggest consumers of illicit drugs, he said.

Catatumbo denounced what he said were "criminal state policies based on the persecution, stigmatization and criminalization of peasant farmers."

There was no immediate reaction to the proposal from the government of President Juan Manuel Santos.

But the FARC initiative echoed a recent move by Uruguay to legalize and regulate the cultivation and sale of marijuana, as well as drug legalization proposals elsewhere in the Americas.

Last November, the FARC's top leader, Timoleon Jimenez, alias "Timochenko," said he was in favor of drug legalization in Colombia, arguing that eradication programs had created social problems by depriving poor farmers of a source of income.

Dutch recall 11 tonnes of French horsemeat

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch authorities said Tuesday they have recalled 11 tonnes of horsemeat that was trafficked from France last year.

The meat was correctly labelled as horse but was unfit for human consumption as some of it came from animals used by scientists to help produce anti-rabies and other serums.

Police in December made a score of arrests in southern

France following a tip-off that 200 horses, including 60 owned by pharmaceutical giant Sanofi, had ended up in abattoirs after their veterinary certificates had been falsified.

Around 11 tonnes of horsemeat that could contain the suspect meat were delivered to five Dutch companies between January and October 2013, the NVWA food safety authority said in a statement.

The meat was then sold on

to restaurants as horsemeat, but also turned into pet food, the NVWA said.

"Of the 11,000 kilos, we have found around 1,000 kilos," NVWA spokesman Brenno Bruggink told AFP.

"It's almost 100 percent certain the rest has been eaten."

The case follows a Europe-wide health scare last year when horsemeat was found in millions of ready meals labelled as containing only beef.

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China jails doctor found guilty of stealing babies

BEIJING (AFP) - A Chinese doctor who abducted and sold newborn babies was given a suspended death sentence Tuesday in a case that drew widespread outrage with child trafficking a chronic problem in the country.

Zhang Shuxia, an obstetrician, was found guilty of stealing seven children, the court said, adding that she tricked parents into giving up their babies by telling them the newborns were sick or had died.

Her actions were only discovered last year, when she told the parents of a newborn boy that the mother "had syphilis and hepatitis which could infect the infant" and persuaded them to give him up, the court said. "She took the baby home, and contacted a trafficker," it added.

Doctors later told the parents they were free of both diseases, reports at the time said, and they raised the alarm.

Authorities recovered the boy, who had been sold by

traffickers to a farmer with three daughters in the central province of Henan for 60,000 yuan (\$9,800).

Also last year, Zhang persuaded a mother to give up a pair of newborn female twins on the grounds that one had died of disease, while the other supposedly had injured arms and legs, the court found.

Chinese parents are sometimes willing to give up disabled children because of the limits imposed by the country's one-child policy, as well as widespread social stigma about disability.

The two girls were also recovered, but another baby Zhang sold was later found dead in a ditch, dumped by a trafficker, said the intermediate court in Weinan, in the northern province of Shaanxi, judging her to be partly responsible.

Zhang received around 20,000 yuan each for several female babies, it added, while a male baby fetched a price of

47,000 yuan in 2011.

It sentenced Zhang to death with a two-year reprieve, adding that her actions "had a negative impact on society". The penalty is likely to be commuted to life imprisonment.

A photograph posted by the court showed Zhang, 55, in a blue jacket and trousers, flanked by police officers.

Her repeated deceptions caused shock across China and highlighted its flourishing underground child trafficking industry, for which tens of thousands of children are believed to be stolen each year.

Most are sold within the country to meet demand fuelled by a one-child limit and traditional preference for sons, while parents accuse apathetic police of failing to investigate.

China does not publish figures on how many children are seized every year but said it rescued 24,000 in the first 10 months of 2013, probably a fraction of total cases.

Police have sometimes re-

fused to open inquiries because the low chance of success might hurt their performance record, and have resisted pursuing families who buy the babies.

The country's strict population control policies mean that most couples are allowed to only have one child, although its top legislature this month endorsed a resolution allowing couples to have two offspring if either parent is an only child.

So far five officials have been sacked in Fuping county, where Zhang's hospital was located, including the head of the facility and the director of the local health department, the official Xinhua news agency said.

But the father of one of the children stolen by Zhang, surnamed Lai, told state-run media: "When hospital leaders came to see me and brought presents I threw them out of the window. I don't accept late apologies, it's too late."

Prosecutors told the court that the trafficking ring extended across several Chinese provinces, and while the cases Zhang was convicted of go back only to 2011, reports said that she may have sold many more children.

According to state media police received reports of 26 incidents allegedly involving the doctor as the main suspect.

Swine flu kills elderly man in Spain

MADRID (AFP) - A 76-year-old man has died of swine flu in northern Spain, where an outbreak of the H1N1 virus has left over 40 people in hospital, officials said Tuesday.

The victim, who had been suffering from other unspecified diseases, died at a hospital in Zaragoza in the region of Aragon where he was being treated for the H1N1 virus, a regional government spokeswoman said.

Another 43 people who have tested positive for the H1N1 flu virus are receiving treatment in hospitals in Aragon, including 18 who are in intensive care, she added.

All of those who are infected with the virus had not received flu shots and they all suffered from chronic disease that had already weakened, regional health minister Ricardo Olivan told reporters.

The World Health Organisation declared the swine flu pandemic over in August 2010, more than a year after the H1N1 virus that emerged from Mexico sparked panic and killed thousands of people around the world.

New Mexico judge upholds "aid in dying"

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A judge in New Mexico ruled Monday that terminally ill patients have the right to have doctors prescribe fatal drug doses to help them die, US media said. The ruling Monday after a two-day trial would make New Mexico the fifth US state to adopt such a policy. The case was brought by two doctors who sought protection against prosecution if they provided fatal drug prescriptions to a patient, and Aja Riggs. She is a 49-year-old woman with cancer. Arguing their case were the American Civil Liberties Union and Compassion and Choices, an advocacy group. They argued that a 1960s state law making it a felony to assist a suicide did not cover doctors helping competent, terminally ill patients who wanted to hasten death. The state argued that such an action by a doctor was covered by the law. Nash said the law did apply but that "the liberty, safety and happiness interest of a competent, terminally ill patient to choose aid in dying is a fundamental right under our New Mexico Constitution," The Times said. The attorney general's office said it was studying the decision and whether to appeal to the State Supreme Court, the Times said. Aid-in-dying is permitted in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Vermont. The practice has been hotly debated since it was first adopted in Oregon in 1997.



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'Lone Survivor' blows away N. American box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Action drama "Lone Survivor" climbed to top spot at the North American box office, earning \$37.8 million in its first weekend in general release, industry figures showed.

Three movies that won honors at Sunday's Golden Globe awards were also in the top 10 -- although the prizes for "American Hustle," "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "Frozen" will likely only show in a box office boost starting this coming weekend.

"Lone Survivor," starring Mark Wahlberg and portraying one of the deadliest incidents of the Afghan war, is based on a book by the only Navy SEAL commando to survive a raid targeting an extremist fighter.

It had been showing on a few screens but starting Friday was available at thousands nationwide.

The patriotic tribute directed by Peter Berg pushed Disney animated musical "Frozen" -- which won best animated Golden Globe -- into second place, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

"Frozen," loosely based on a



Hans Christian Andersen fairytale, added another \$14.7 million in earnings, taking its eight-week haul in the United States and Canada to more than \$317 million.

Debuting in third with \$8.9 million was superhero flick "The Legend of Hercules," which retraces the demigod's youth when he was still unaware of his divine ascendancy, sold as a slave and fighting to reconquer his kingdom.

In fourth spot was Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street" with \$8.8 million.

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio -- who won a best actor Golden Globe for the role -- it tells the story of disgraced financier

Jordan Belfort, who conned his way to hundreds of millions in the 1990s while maintaining a notoriously drug-fueled lifestyle.

"American Hustle" -- which won three Globes including best musical/comedy film -- was fifth, earning \$8.3 million for the story of grifters who team up with an FBI agent to net other con artists.

"The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," fell to sixth spot with just over \$8 million.

The second part of director Peter Jackson's trilogy of films, based on J.R.R. Tolkien's beloved classic, has earned \$242 million to date in North America.

Not-so Hell's Angel: Pope's Harley-Davidson for sale



LONDON (AFP) - A Harley-Davidson motorcycle that was once given to Pope Francis by the manufacturer is to go on sale next month in Paris, a British auction house said. The bike, which is signed by Pope Francis on the petrol tank, is expected to fetch between 12,000 euros and 15,000 euros (\$16,400 and \$20,500) when it goes on sale at the Grand Palais in Paris on February 6. The pope donated the Harley in November to the Roman Catholic charity Caritas Roma and the funds from the sale will go towards the restoration of its Don Luigi di Liegro hostel and soup kitchen based at Rome's Termini railway station. Pope Francis also has written to the cardinals he is preparing to appoint next month, warning them to steer clear of "worldliness" and "celebrations" and telling them they should retain "a simple and humble heart". The Pope also set a date for engaged heterosexual couples at a special general audience with him in the Vatican on February 14. "Engaged couples who have already attended or are presently attending marriage preparation courses are invited to a meeting with the Holy Father," the statement said in several languages.

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Toxic chemicals found in children's clothes, shoes

BEIJING (AFP) - Children's clothing and shoes made by a dozen globally-recognised brands have been found to contain potentially harmful chemicals, Greenpeace said Tuesday.

A new investigation by the environmental campaign group showed that at least one article from every brand was found to have chemicals that "can have adverse impacts either on human reproductive, hormonal or immune systems".

But some of the substances it tested were at concentrations as low as 1mg per kilo, which it described as "the limit of detection", and it was not clear from the statement how many of the samples were above official limits.

The campaign group has issued similar findings before, and in 2012 held a "toxic" fashion show in Beijing to draw attention to its allegation that two-thirds of high-street garments it tested contained harmful chemicals.

Greenpeace analysed 82 products manufactured in 12 different countries, with China the biggest producer on 29.

"These chemical 'little monsters' can be found in everything from exclusive luxury designs to budget fashion, polluting our waterways from Beijing to Berlin," Lee added.

Of the products tested, 50 items, or 61 percent, were found to contain nonylphenol ethoxylates, or NPEs, which the group said can break down and become toxic "hormone disruptors".

High levels of PFOA, an ionic perfluorinated chemical that can cause reproductive harm, were also found on some products.

The campaign group said it tested products made by Adidas, American Apparel, Burberry, C&A, Disney, Gap, H&M, Li-Ning, Nike, Primark, Puma and Uniqlo.

Taiwan seizes seven tonnes of dolphin meat

TAIPEI (AFP) - Taiwanese authorities said Tuesday they had confiscated 7.65 tonnes of dolphin meat in one of the largest hauls of its kind.

Officials seized the meat while searching a frozen goods factory in the southern city of Kaohsiung over the weekend.

Tests confirmed the product was dolphin, and it is estimated 150 of the animals were slaughtered to create the stockpile, the Pingtung Forest District Office said.

The factory owner, who said he bought the meat from local fishermen, faces up to five years in jail and a maximum fine of Tw\$1.5 million

(\$50,000) for violating wildlife protection laws, said the agency which organised the search.

An investigation is ongoing and it is not clear where the dolphins were caught and sold.

Eating wild animals, including whales and dolphins, has long been a tradition for residents in some coastal areas of Taiwan, who believe they are good for health.

But all species of whales and dolphins have been protected by Taiwan's conservation law since 1989.

It is illegal to buy protected animals for any purpose.

Scientists apologise for failing to make girl a dragon

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia's national science agency has issued a rare apology to a seven-year-old girl for not being able to make her a fire-breathing dragon, blaming a lack of research into the mythical creatures.

The youngster, Sophie, wrote to a "Lovely Scientist" at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), politely asking whether they could make her a winged pet of her own.

"I would call it Toothless if it was a girl and if it is a boy I would name it Stuart," she wrote in her letter, promising to

feed it raw fish and play with it when she wasn't at school.

Toothless is the name of a dragon befriended by a Viking teenager in the How to Train Your Dragon series of children's books. The pair also feature in a popular film franchise. Stuart is her father's name.

Sophie's request prompted an unusual apology from the 87-year-old institution, which admitted "we've missed something".

"Over the past 87 odd years we have not been able to create a dragon or dragon eggs," it said, adding that its scientists had observed dragonflies and even measured the body temperatures of the lizard known as a mallee dragon.

Sophie's mother Melissa Lester said her daughter had asked for a dragon for Christmas, and her father, Stuart, had told her it would not be possible, prompting the seven-year-old to contact a scientist for help.

"She is a very imaginative little girl and has been obsessed with dinosaurs and dragons from a very young age and had been pestering us for a dragon for Christmas," her mum told the ABC.

BMW unveils self-driving cars, Galaxy Gear smartwatch app for i3

Two self-driving BMWs, a 2-series and a 6-series, were rolled out at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway and put through their paces. Each completed a slalom course and even showed off a high-speed turn on a wet roadway, as their "drivers" gleefully holding their hands up to the windows. There was also an advanced, self-parking BMW i3 capable of longitudinal as well as lateral guidance. Another of BMW's automated advances comes in the form of an app for Samsung's Galaxy Gear smartwatch for the BMW i3, which lets you use the smartwatch to control all of the car's functions. Everything from the car's internal climate to battery charge levels can be monitored from your wrist. There's even the option of sending your car a destination and having it plan out a route before you get inside. All of these advancements are part of BMW's next generation of ConnectedDrive. With it, we could see cars capable of navigating any road condition or traffic pattern, parking for us, and even swinging by school to pick up the little brother all without a human behind the wheel. Once 2020 swings around the corner, we'll just might all find ourselves saving up for that autonomous, connected beamer that does all our driving work for us.



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Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.65
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.97
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	198.75
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	245.86
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.14
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.18
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Ports in southern Chile shut down to support strike in north

SANTIAGO (AFP) - Workers at seven ports in southern Chile ground work to a halt Tuesday to support counterparts in central and northern ports who have been on strike for 22 days.

Hundreds of longshoremen protested in Talcahuano on the street outside the offices of Ultraport, which runs the port in Mejillones in the north. The company is accused of refusing to negotiate with workers who are seeking a paid meal break of 30 minutes retroactive to 2005.

The ports that joined in the work action Tuesday were San Vicente, Coronel, Lirquen,

Schwager, Puchoco, Muelle CAP and Talcahuano.

The strike that has been under way for the past three weeks is at five ports including Chile's key exporter San Antonio, on the central coast. It is a key export point for the country's huge fruit and vegetable crops.

The company has said it will not negotiate while there is any violence; police have dispersed demonstrators with tear gas at least once.

Fruit and mining corporations like state-owned Codelco could lose millions of dollars if they are unable to ship out their products.

France's Hollande announces 30 bn euro cut to payroll charges

PARIS (AFP) - French President Francois Hollande kicked off an eagerly awaited press conference Tuesday with a pledge to cut 30 billion euros (\$41 billion) from payroll taxes by 2017.

Hollande said the measure,

which will involve abolishing so-called family contributions currently paid by companies and independent workers, would help stimulate growth in a country he said had lost its economic strength.

"France must get moving again in order to set off again," he said as he outlined what he termed as a new Responsibility Pact with business.

He said the country was already seeing "fragile" results, such as a drop in youth unemployment and what he said was a "stabilisation" of overall jobless figures.

Hollande had pledged to reverse the trend of rising unemployment by the end of 2013, but the latest figures for November indicate this is going to be a difficult task.

US stocks surge after upbeat retail sales data

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks closed solidly higher Tuesday, buoyed by a better-than-expected report on December retail sales covering the holiday shopping season.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 115.92 points (0.71 percent) to 16,373.86.

The broad-market S&P 500 advanced 19.68 (1.08 percent) to 1,838.88 and the tech-rich Nasdaq rose 69.71 (1.69 percent) to 4,183.02.

The indices recovered from Monday's dive as investors digested an encouraging report on US retail sales, a part of the consumer spending that drives the economy.

The Commerce Department said retail sales rose 0.2 percent in December, surprising

analysts who had estimated no change.

JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo kicked off the banking sector's fourth-quarter earnings season with modestly better-than-expected results.

Dow member JPMorgan inched up 0.1 percent. The nation's largest bank posted a 7.2 percent drop in fourth-quarter earnings, while adjusted \$1.40 earnings per share beat expectations by five cents.

Wells Fargo also added 0.1 percent after posting a 10.4 percent profit rise for the fourth quarter, with earnings of \$1.00 per share two cents above estimates.

Technology shares rallied. Microsoft led the Dow higher, advancing 2.3 percent. Intel

surged nearly 4.0 percent after a JPMorgan upgrade.

Tech heavyweight Apple jumped almost 2.0 percent.

Time Warner Cable gained 2.7 percent after rejecting a third takeover proposal from Charter Communications as "grossly inadequate." Charter rose 2.3 percent.

Google gained 2.4 percent after announcing it was buying Nest Labs, a smart-home company that makes thermostats and smoke alarms, for \$3.2 billion in cash.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury rose to 2.87 percent from 2.83 percent Monday, while the 30-year increased to 3.80 percent from 3.77 percent. Bond prices and yields move inversely.

US oil prices rise ahead of US crude supply report

NEW YORK (AFP) - US oil prices rose Tuesday on solid retail sales data ahead of a US oil supply report that is expected to show a drop in crude inventories.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for delivery in February rose 79 cents to close at \$92.59 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

European benchmark Brent crude for February delivery

fell 36 cents to \$106.39 a barrel in London trade.

The rise in US oil prices came after the US Commerce Department said December retail sales showed a 0.2 percent increase during the critical holiday shopping period, better than the flat sales expected.

Retail sales are part of the consumer spending that is the prime driver of the US economy, the world's biggest crude consumer.

Analysts said crude prices were positioned for a rally after a steep sell-off in recent sessions. US prices fell from \$100.32 a barrel on December 27 to \$91.80 on Monday.

There has been a "fairly sizeable decline in the price of crude oil since the beginning of the year," said David Bouckhout, senior commodity strategist at TD Securities.

Andy Lebow, senior vice president for energy derivatives at Jefferies Bache, said traders are also geared up for Wednesday's weekly report on US oil inventories.

Analysts forecast a decline of 300,000 barrels of crude, according to a survey by the Wall Street Journal.

Meanwhile, Brent oil has been under pressure from the partial restoration of Libyan oil, which analysts say is back to about 650,000 barrels a day after getting as low as 250,000 in the wake of political protests.

Analysts say the weekend nuclear agreement between Iran and the United States, China and other powers has also weighed on oil prices. An easing of sanctions on Iran could enable higher crude output from the country.

US to sell Israel six Osprey military aircraft

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Pentagon plans to sell six tilt-rotor Osprey aircraft to Israel in a long-planned deal worth \$1.13 billion, officials said.

Israel will become the first foreign country to be allowed to purchase the V-22 Osprey, which can take off like a helicopter and fly like a turboprop airplane.

US officials had announced plans to sell the Osprey to Israel last year but the Pentagon unveiled details of the arms package Tuesday in a formal notification to Congress, which has 15 days to raise any objections to the sale.

Apart from the V-22s, the package includes radar, missile warning systems, radios, night vision goggles, navigation systems and other equipment for the Ospreys, according to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

N	B	A		B	A	I	T
E	R	I	N	E	D	G	E
L	I	M	E	A	D	O	R
L	E	S	S	O	N	S	E
		T	D	S	I	S	E
A	M	I	L	E	S	C	A
R	E	N	E	P	I	E	
T	A	M	M	A	T	C	H
E	N	A	C	T	S	A	O
S	T	U	N	S	P	O	T
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PICKLES



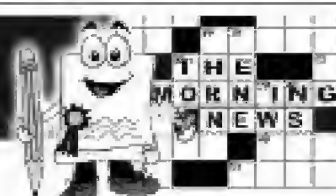
MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

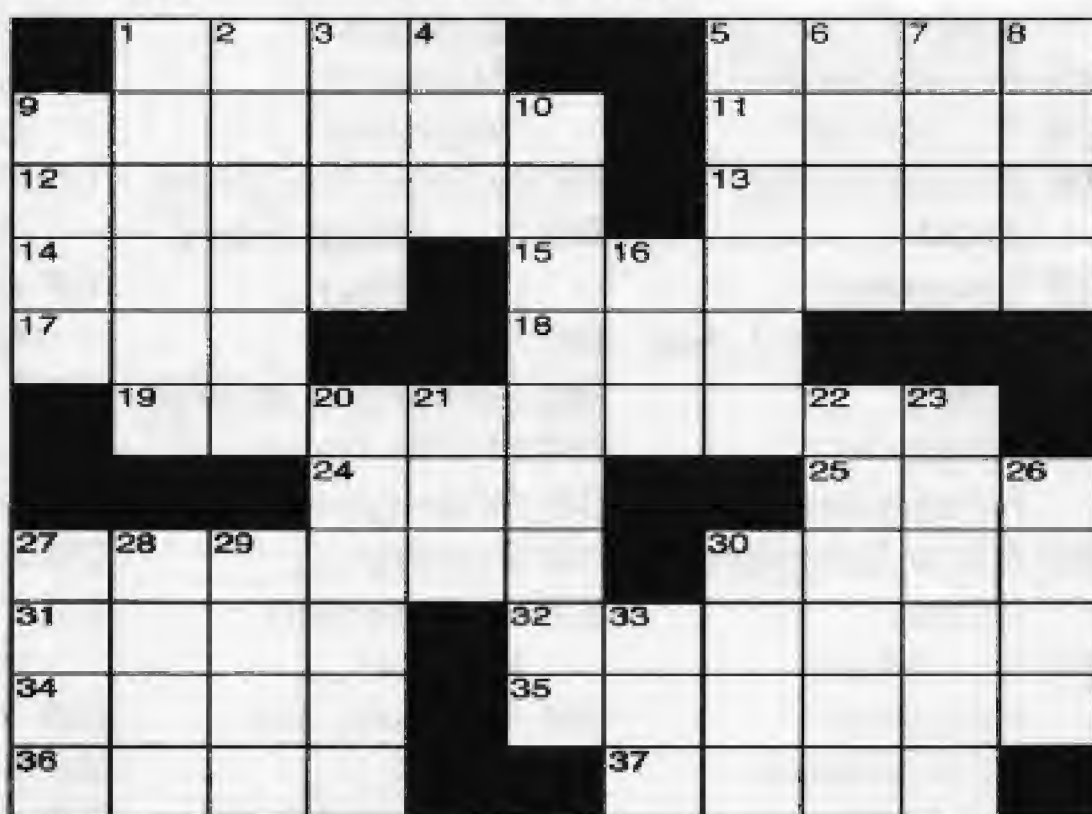
- 1 Pitcher's illegal motion
- 5 Bed board
- 9 Colored glass design
- 11 Designer Chanel
- 12 Obedient (2 wds.)
- 13 Not fooled by
- 14 Observer
- 15 In danger (2 wds.)
- 17 Three, in Pisa
- 18 Cul-de-__
- 19 Vehicle for interplanetary travel
- 24 Gdansk's locale (abbr.)
- 25 Society gal
- 27 Small in stature
- 30 Mme.'s daughter
- 31 Gumbo pods
- 32 Sales

DOWN

- 34 Not far
- 35 Unrevealed
- 36 Catch sight of
- 37 Enthusiasm
- 1 "___ Ark" (Addison comic strip)
- 2 Napping
- 3 Hideout
- 4 Relative
- 5 Singe

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- 6 Actress Anderson
- 7 Makes believe
- 8 Seized
- 9 Water vapor
- 10 Without end
- 16 British thanks
- 20 Honey factory
- 21 Barracks fixture
- 22 Lazy folks
- 23 Piece of small shot
- 26 Number one
- 27 Cornmeal bread
- 28 Stretches out
- 29 Golfer's hazard
- 30 Maze creatures
- 33 Candy in a container



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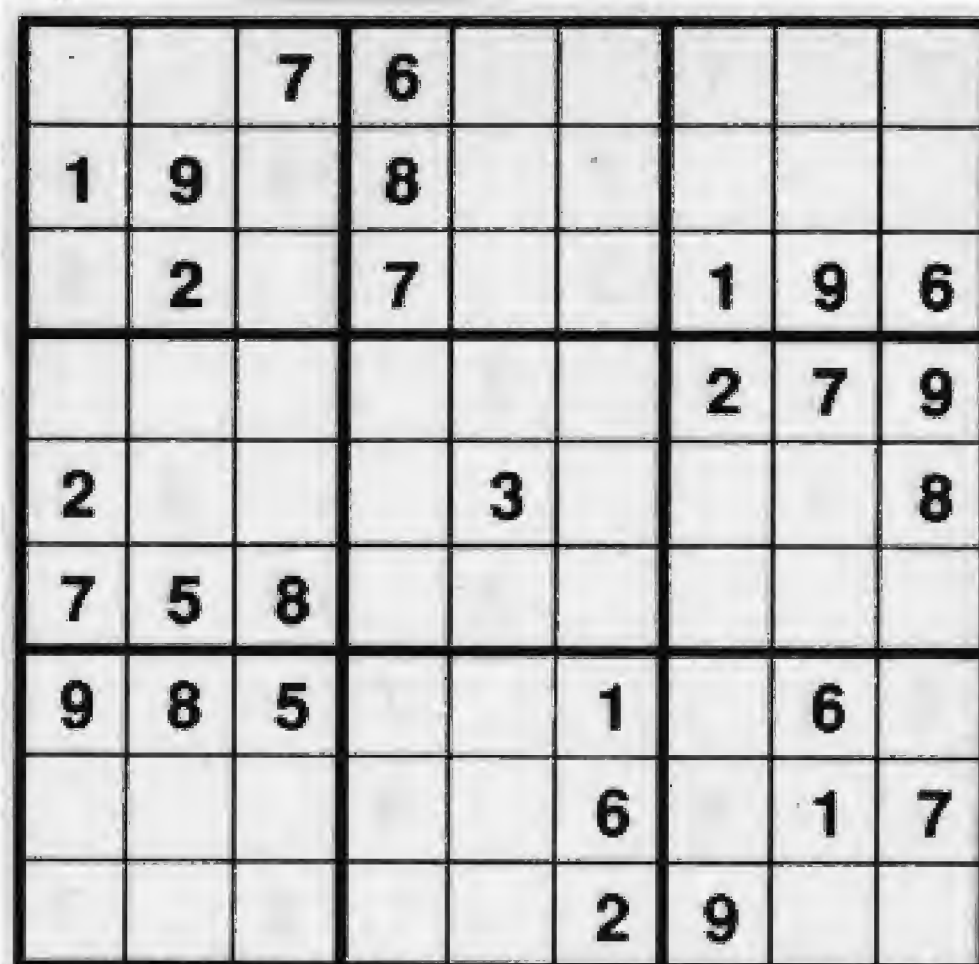
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	8	2	9	5	1	2	9
2	1	5	8	6	2	5	4
2	9	6	1	2	4	5	8
1	6	9	4	8	3	5	2
8	5	4	2	6	1	8	3
6	2	8	9	3	4	1	5
9	8	1	3	4	2	6	5
5	4	2	6	3	8	1	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the

investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varela Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations. As Varela says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa crollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.

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Tennis: Fainting, vomiting as stars struggle in 'inhumane' heat



Frank Dancevic lies on the court after collapsing during his match at the Australian Open in Melbourne.

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Players fainted and vomited and a ball boy collapsed as the Australian Open boiled in one of the hottest days in its history Tuesday, prompting angry complaints and keeping fans away in droves.

Temperatures of 42.2 Celsius (108 Fahrenheit), enough to melt plastic bottles on the rubberised courts, made for a punishing day for the players with some incensed their matches went ahead.

The Australian Open, held at the height of the Melbourne summer, is notorious for its heat. State officials imposed a blanket fire ban and warned of extreme temperatures in some areas on Tuesday.

To cope, players draped themselves in ice towels and guzzled water on the changeovers as temperatures, already at 35 Celsius before play even started, rose steadily until the early evening.

Andy Murray warned organisers were risking a tragedy Tuesday as extreme temperatures caused players to faint and vomit in a day of extraordinary scenes at the Australian Open.

The Scot, who safely progressed alongside Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, queried whether it was safe to play in temperatures which touched 42.2 Celsius (108 Fahrenheit).

Federer, watched by new coach Stefan Edberg, was regal in his 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win over Australia's James Duckworth, and Murray, who is returning from back surgery, overpowered Soeda 6-1, 6-1, 6-3.

In the women's draw, de-

fending champion Victoria Azarenka beat Johanna Larsson and former world number one Caroline Wozniacki ousted Lourdes Dominguez Lino for the loss of just two games.

Maria Sharapova, still using ice vests in temperatures over 30 Celsius after 11:00 pm, beat Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-3, 6-4.

Wozniacki dispatched Spain's Lourdes Dominguez Lino 6-0, 6-2 as she goes in hunt of a maiden Grand Slam title, with the final of the US Open in 2009 the deepest she has gone in a major so far.

The Dane, seeded 10, has struggled to revisit the highs of 2010 and 2011, when she finished both years as world number one.

But she is determined to find more success, and said she was in a good place after getting engaged to golf star Rory McIlroy on New Year's Eve.

NBA: Parker shines as Spurs stop Pelicans



NEW ORLEANS (AFP) - Tony Parker scored at team-high 27 points and Manu Ginobili bagged 14 in his return from injury as the San Antonio Spurs beat the New Orleans Pelicans 101-95 on Monday.

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WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama has congratulated the NBA champion Miami Heat for showing the "heart and determination" it takes to sit atop the league. It was a return visit to the White House for the team on Tuesday, in honor of its second straight NBA title. The Heat won their third NBA championship overall by topping the San Antonio Spurs in seven games.



SAO PAULO (AFP) - The US national football squad kicked off a 12-day training session in Sao Paulo on Tuesday as part of their "dry run" for the upcoming World Cup. Under tight security, coach Jurgen Klinsmann held an initial practice with his 26 players at the Sao Paulo FC club's training facility, rated as one of the best in Brazil. The former star from Germany said his squad includes many young players "who have a point to prove, that they can all go to the World Cup". Klinsmann said he came to Sao Paulo on a scouting tour two years ago and decided that Brazil's economic capital was the best place in terms of hotels and training facility to set up the US base camp for the two-week tournament that will open here June 12. After conducting daily workouts and two private scrimmages over the next 12 days, the US team plan to play a friendly against South Korea in Carson, California on February 1. Klinsmann acknowledged that team USA face a tough group against Germany, Portugal and Ghana and must beat Ghana in the opening game in the northeastern city of Natal on June 16. Travel to northeastern World Cup venues such as Natal, Recife and Manaus will be a major challenge although American players are used to travel long distances at home, he added. He also expressed confidence that Brazil will rise to the challenge of hosting their first World Cup since 1950 despite concern about delays in readying stadiums and infrastructure projects.

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Alpine skiing: Shiffrin lands blow ahead of Olympics

FLACHAU (AFP) - US teenage ski star Mikaela Shiffrin won the women's night slalom in Flachau, Austria, on Tuesday in dominant fashion, besting her rivals by close to a second.

The 18-year-old, who was winning in Flachau for a second successive year, clocked a time of 1min 45.83sec over two runs.

Two Swedes completed the podium with Frida Hansdotter second at 0.83sec, and Maria Pietilae-Holmner third at 1.14sec.

Shiffrin, the reigning slalom world champion and winner of last year's World Cup crystal globe in the discipline, already led after the first run, having put in a thundering performance to finish 0.90 sec ahead of Germany's Maria Hoefl-Ri-



Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States (C) on the podium with Sweden's Maria Pietilae-Holmner 2nd place (L) and France's Nastasia Noens, 3rd place,

esch.

In the second run, she made a few mistakes but nevertheless proved unbeatable, even as the skiers faced poor visibility and rain on the course.

The youngster thus confirmed her dominance in the slalom, with less than a month to go before the Olympics in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi.

For Hansdotter, 28, world slalom bronze medallist, this was her second slalom podium in a month after Courchevel.

All her eight career slalom podiums have seen her fill the runners-up spot.

But with Shiffrin in superior form, this was the best result she could hope for on Tuesday.

The race, which took place in front of a boisterous crowd

of 14,300, had been widely expected to be a duel between Austrian veteran Marlies Schild and Shiffrin, 14 years her junior.

Going into Flachau, each had two slalom wins this season.

But with the joint third fastest time after the first run, Schild, who has won a record 35 World Cup slaloms, made a costly mistake, eventually finishing 26th at 5.84sec.

The popular night slalom in Flachau was one of the last opportunities for the skiers to measure themselves against their competitors ahead of Sochi.

Only one other women's slalom is scheduled before the Olympics - in Maribor, Slovenia, on February 2.

NFL: Titans name ex-Cards boss Wisenhunt as new coach



NASHVILLE (AFP) - Ken Wisenhunt, the former coach of the Arizona Cardinals, was named the new coach of the National Football League's Tennessee Titans on Monday.

The team announced in a posting on its website that Wisenhunt would replace the fired Mike Munchak after agreeing upon contract terms that were not announced.

Wisenhunt spent this past season as the offensive coordinator for the San Diego Chargers, who were eliminated from

the NFL playoffs one day earlier, losing 24-17 at Denver.

Wisenhunt, 51, went 45-51 over six seasons from 2007-2012 while guiding the Cardinals, who under him won two NFC West division titles and reached Super Bowl 43, losing to the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2009.

The Titans interviewed Wisenhunt on Friday in San Diego while the Chargers because of NFL rules regarding talks to personnel on teams still in the playoffs. Tennessee spoke with three other NFL assistant coaches about the job as well.

Wisenhunt, whose hometown of Augusta, Georgia, is the home of golf's Masters major championship, spent 10 seasons as an assistant coach before taking over the Cardinals and played nine seasons in the NFL as a tight end, catching 62 passes for 601 yards and six touchdowns for Atlanta, Washington and the New York Jets.

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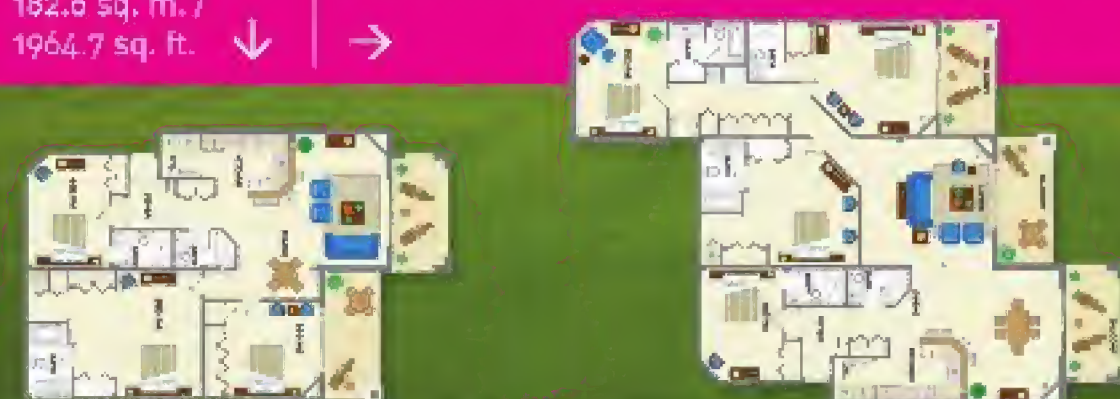


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Rallying: Peterhansel wins to eat into Roma's Dakar lead

LIQUIQUE (AFP) - French rally great Stephane Peterhansel boosted his hopes of a hat-trick of Dakar Rally wins as he won Tuesday's ninth stage of the race.

Peterhansel guided his Mini home fastest on the 459 kilometre leg - 422km timed - from Calama to Iquique in Chile.

The 43-year-old -- who if successful this year would make it six wins in the car category to equal the amount he won in the motorbike section - shaved more than 11 minutes off overall leader Nani Roma's advantage with his win.

He is now just over 12 minutes adrift of the lead with the race finishing on Saturday.

Peterhansel, who had a wretched start to the Rally but has surged back into contention, timed 4hr 17min 53sec, while Monday's stage winner, Qatar's Nasser Al-Atiyah, was second, 2min 17sec adrift.

Roma, meanwhile, was third, over 11 minutes slower.

Roma, winner of the motorcycling event in the 2004 edi-



tion and runner-up two years ago, will be keen to re-establish his authority today.

However, Peterhansel insisted that there would be no let up from him as he seeks victory. "For sure, I am in a good position because I have no pressure because I am not the leader," he said.

"Now I'm trying to drive as fast as possible. I'm taking real pleasure in it now, because I have nothing to lose.

Earlier, Spanish rider Marc Coma moved a step closer to a fourth Dakar Rally motorcycling crown with a stage victory.

The 37-year-old brought his KTM bike home in 4hr 49min 05sec, over a minute ahead of

compatriot Joan Barreda -- who was runner-up for the second successive day -- while Monday's stage winner, France's five-time overall winner Cyril Despres, was third, over five minutes adrift.

Coma leads Barreda by 40min 19sec in the overall standings while another Spaniard, Jordi Viladoms, is third but lies over 90 minutes in arrears.

While Coma described the stage as being a complicated one he was delighted with the final outcome.

Today's 10th stage is set to test all the competitors as it comprises a 631km timed section.

Aruba Amateur Boxing Association to organize international boxing



ORANJESTAD - On Betico Day sports activities are being held all over the island as part of the day's celebrations. Every year the majority of our federations and sports organizations plan activities in remembrance of Betico Croes' birth. On January 25th the Aruba Amateur Boxing Association, for the third consecutive year, will be holding an international boxing event with the participation of Curacao and Bonaire. Obviously, our local clubs will be part of this boxing event. Those who have confirmed their participation are Jefferson Boxing Gym of coach Jeff Nedd, Leo's Boxing Gym of coach Rudolf Wester, Dojo Illidge of coach Ricardo Illidge, Stay Boxing Fit of coach Stay Hassel and Stuart Boxing of coach Edwin Stuart. There is a possibility that there may be a match between two female boxers. The Subsidy Commission of the Lotto pa Deporte Foundation is pleased to support this international boxing event organized by the Aruba Amateur Boxing Association. International events serve as unique experiences for our local athletes. Here they can really measure how good they are in their particular sport. The Subsidy Commission wishes our boxers much success in this important event.